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COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 19 August 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit for your information the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania on 19 August 1993 concerning the unilateral suspension by the Russian Federation of the withdrawal of its armed forces from the territory of Lithuania (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the distribution of the present letter and the annexed statement as a document of the General Assembly, under item 32 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Algimantas GURECKAS
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/48/150.

ANNEX

Statement issued at Vilnius on 19 August 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania

The schedule for the withdrawal of the military forces of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, signed on 8 September 1992 by representatives of the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation and deposited with the United Nations, has until now been adhered to. This has strengthened the mutual trust between the two countries and created favourable conditions for the resolution of other matters of mutual concern.

On 19 August 1993, the Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania received a statement from the Defence Ministry of the Russian Federation stating that the withdrawal of the armed forces of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania is being suspended.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania expresses its great concern over this decision by the Russian Federation and states that Lithuania has up to now consistently fulfilled its international obligations with regard to the Russian Federation. Consequently, Lithuania views this unilateral decision by the Russian Federation as an attempt to apply political pressure upon the process of negotiations under way between Lithuania and the Russian Federation with the intent to change Lithuania's position. This position is founded upon the will of the Lithuanian people, expressed in a nationwide referendum held on 14 June 1992, on the question of the withdrawal of Russian forces and compensation for damages.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania draws attention to the necessity to execute unconditionally all agreed-upon arrangements; by disregarding those agreements the Russian Federation ignores universally recognized principles of international law.

Nevertheless, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania expresses the hope that the Russian Federation will withdraw its remaining armed forces from Lithuania by 31 August 1993, the date indicated in the withdrawal timetable, and by doing so will demonstrate that good-neighbourly relations are being maintained on the basis of international legal norms.

Lithuania is prepared to continue the political dialogue with the Russian Federation concerning all questions of mutual concern.